ARRAS CATHEDRAL AND HALL RUINED

Priceless Works of Art in French Town Said to Have Been Destroyed by Artillery Fire.

REGION A VERITABLE INFERNO

Battle Started on First of Present Month and Locality Was Subjected to an Incessant Hail of Shells.

LONDON, Oct. 2 .- The correspondent of the Telegraph in the northwest part of France sends the following: fire

"Refugees reaching the coast today from Arras report that the Germans on Wednesday shelled the town, ruined the belfry of the ancient Hotel de Ville (town hall), and sent several shells into the cathedral. Whether the shell fire damaged Rubens' famous picture, "The Descent from the Cross," and other priceless works of art cannot be learned. The wrecked beilry was the greatest ornament of the town

"There has been fighting around Arras for several days. An enormous German force gathered on the plain east of Arras last Saturday. The attack began Monday, with the heaviest fighting on Tues- GERMANS CROSS day and Wednesday. The early bom bardment did small damage, but the shells on Wednesday spread wholesale death and destruction. Many of the citisens had fled on the urgent advice of the authorities.

Germans Gain Town.

"The Germans gained the town after a before advancing on the allies west of the allies. town

"The allies, who had been reinforced "After this defeat the Germans changed from Amiens, entered by the Porte their tactics. Instead of making an ad-D'Amiens. the streets, supplemented by work with tion they crept up during the night tothe mitrafileuses. Gradually the allies wards a riverside point further east. advanced and pushed the Germans out of Here they threw across a pontoon bridge the town.'

'The Times' Boulogne correspondent, infantrymen were seen crossing under who has been on the scene, relates some cover of a heavy artillery fire. phases of the fighting on the French wing.

The correspondent says he went un- defenders, however, were in very small suspectingly to Arras September 12. The numbers and after accounting for a few battle of Arras began October 1 and the of the advancing infantry they withdrew whole region became a veritable inferno to the main Belgian lines. All around was an unceasing hall of tion and death.

Friday the enemy developed a vigorous ticipated and at one point they were re-

"On Saturday the enemy greatly reinforced, attacked with great violence all brought, up several batteries of heavy along the line. The alites were compelled to fall back from Lens and Douai, fighting stubbornly the while. The enemy occupied Dethune and sent troops into Lille, firing from windows as they went.

Swept Around Town.

"When I left Arras the enemy's shells gians brought up troops to hold them were bursting within three kilometers of back under cover of batteries which were the town. I since have heard that shells shelling the enemy's main position on the fell in the town and that three streets enemy.

were set on fire. The enemy did not enter Arras. They swept around it. They cut a line between Arras and St. seeking to effect a nunction with

in the air and am invited to watch the battle at closer quarters. ful battle scene. In front, on the horizon, a farmhouse is blasing florcely and the black smoke trails across the evening sky. Within 500 yards of us the French batteries are in action, shelling the woods to drive out the enemy. Presently the German artillery begins shelling the battery near us. As the shrapnel fire be-

gests it is time to go. October 4-The action is now general in all directions. We go out in the afternoon with the Red Cross to aid in bringing in the wounded. Going in the direction of Cambrai, the shells hurtle overhead as we run the gauntlet. Away to the south villages are in flames and northward a huge cloud of black smoke hangs over Lens, where the coal mines are or

comes heavier and nearer, our guide aug-

'It is a real battle scene, awe-inspiring and fagginating. We reach a little hamlet where every building in full of wounded, and the nurses and doctors are working heroically at the terrible, shrapnel-mangled limbs. We take all we are able in the cars back to Arras station, where they are entrained.

"Entering Arras again, we learn that all the men between 18 and 48 have been ordered to leave town. They are already streaming out on foot for St. Pol. and we join them, also afoot,

RIVER SCHELDT

(Continued from Page One.) through Alost toward the Scheldt.

"The previous attacks of the Germans on the river were all made under cover of desperate encounter and entered by the violent artillery assaults, which repeat-Porte St. Michel, after getting a footing edly proved futile. The last of these open inside of the historic rampart. Once in- attacks was on Monday evening and was side the town the Germans had to rest defeated by the vigorous defease of the

Bridge Built in Night

There was hot rifle fire in vance in force on the Schoonaerde posiand at 6 o'clock this morning about 500

"They were observed by the Belgian

shells and shrapnels, violence, destruc- menced an action all along the river side line, extending from Termonde to Uyther-"On the previous Thursday," the cor- den, a few miles east of Grembergen. respondent continues, "the allies were They met with a vigorous defense, in battering at the gates of Cambrai. On which both the artillery and infantry parcounter attack from Valenciennes on pulsed by a bayonet charge. Again the Lens and from Cambral and Bopaume on the allies' position south and east of strength and succeeded in breaking through.

"During the morning the Germans guns. These outranged the Belgian ar tillery and forced its retirement, but it continued to harass the advancing infantry. It was noticeable that a Taube aeroplane directed the German operations. "As soon as it became known that the

Germans had crossed the river the Bel-

One Battery Forces Passage. "At 1.30 o'clock this afternoon a hotly contested battle was engaged along the THE BEE: OMAHA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1914.

"I air conducted to some rising ground outside the town, where I saw a wonder-ful battle scene. In front, on the horizon.

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patrols who immediately opened fire. The "Simultaneously the Germans com

their Bethune force.

back in the south. In the north they retired to La Basses, with their right wing resting on Lille. The tide of the battle has been stemmed, perhaps turned in favor of the allies.

Fight Developed Quickly.

"This battle of the north developed across. One battery, however, succeeded with amazing suddenness, as may be in forcing a passage. It was quickly gathered from the diary of my experi- brought into action and concentrated a ences.

The diary describes the beginning of Belgiane to the cast of Berinerre. the battle on October 1 and goes on to "After several hours of fierce fighting 10.7

soldiers began streaming into Arras, and bodies of infantry over the pontoon for hours the air resounded with the din bridge and, although many were swept they made. Throughout the night the away by mitrailleures, a considerable boom of guns could be heard in the dis- number succeeded in passing over. They tance from the east and southeast.

town, but the roar of guns was still on the Belstan infantry. heard, and as the day advanced the "At the moment of sending this dis sound was coming nearer, but the citizens showed a stout heart and had plenty though they have not yet got any large

Losses Heavy on Both Sides.

"The losses on both sides have been very heavy. In one action alone today five German regiments were cut up and the horses of their convoys stampeded. They were advancing on Arras by the road along the river Scharpe and at the village of Plouvain they came under the

The day, however, has not been altogether favorable for the allies, as the assault and decided to widen the breach Tonight, squadron after squadron of war- against the steady downpour of shells. stained and tired dragoons are riding into Arras, while long lines of limbers are fenses was destroyed. For the final atrattling out on the Douai road, inden with tack the Germans are hurrying 200,000 shells for tomorrow. It is a serene, moonlight night, but the guns are roaring. still, not having ceased since daybreak.

On October 3 I am awalened at daybreak by the thunder of heavy guns, now day I watched a daring aeroplane fight

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whole line. The mitrailleuses played a considerable part in the fighting. Many "They came into contact with strong of those employed by the Belgians are French reinforcements and were driven drawn by dogs, several of which I saw lying wounded in the roadside.

"Subsequently the Germans made perate efforts to bring their artillery over the pontoon bridge. This was fiercely contested by the Belgians and two guns were destroyed by shrapnel midway vigorous fire on the area held by the

the enemy brought up strong reinforch-

"As darkness fell the tired, bloodstained ments from the south. They threw large occupied houses in Berlaerre and from "The next morning opened quist in these vantage points kept up a rifle fire

patch the battle is still in progress. Alproaching Antwerp from the southwest."

First Line of Defense Falls.

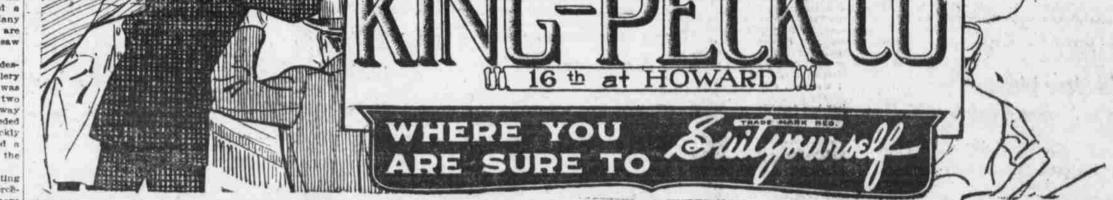
ANTWERP, Oct. 8 .- (Via London.)-The Germans on Saturday spent sixteen hours in a terrific artillery duel in an wounded and giving the last care to the effort to ford the Nethe. The Belgians devastating fire from our artillery and with great sacrifices prevented the Ger- CHICAGOANS ARE ASKED mans from crossing. The Germans were evidently unwilling to lose men in an French were obliged to fall back con- in the fortifications by hombarding the siderably. This evening the enemy's forts between the rivers Senne and a proclamation today, the forty-third an- Aids digestion. Electric Bitters will in shells are failing near the Arras station. Scheldt, which were unable to hold out niversary of the great Chicago fire, urged Thus the first line of Antwerp's demen to the scene of battle from Aix La Chapelle via Brussels.

The Germans are boring a bole through the Belgian resistance like the boring of a tunnel through a mountain. from the north and east, where the third in which progress no mercy is shown. day's battle is raging in a triangle formed Whatever interfores-villages, churches, by Arras, Lons and Doual. During the schools and factoriss-are wiped out with steady precision.

Miles of Blackened Ruins.

The road from Brussels to Antwerp is one line of blackened ruins. Some of the towns, including Termonde, have been empletely erased. The population fied before the Germans like Americans before a prairie fire. An endiess procession of peasants and shopksepers, young, old and invalids, with their chattels loaded in hand carts and antiquidated wagons, and followed by countiess children. dumbly pursuing their parents. driving bellowing cattle, are slowly moving in the direction of Antwerp's cathedral tower. They have difficulty in avoiding the numerous military trains of guns, wagons and automobiles rushing to the front, and occasionally they have to make way for ambulances hastening toward the city with men wounded in the fighting.

The refugees, on arriving in Antwerp. are cared for by the civil guards and boy scouts and taken to the public buildings and the German shops, which, contrary to the accepted version, were not destroyed, but were temporarily taken over by the government. The refugees are well fed and large numbers of the



pean nations now at war gave \$859,000 to children have been taken in charge by relieve suffering here after the disastrous nuns, who are caring for them. fire.

Dead Left Where They Fall.

Work of collecting a \$100,000 fund here The German shells continually strike for the American Red Cross society bethe roads leading to Antwerp, and the gan yesterday under the direction of fifty exploding shrapnel has in some cases of the city's wealthlest husiness men. Colplayed havoc among the peasants. The lections totaliting \$20,000 were made on dead are left where they fall and the the first day.

of occupation tending the wounded, who body of men across the Scheldt the Ger- along. In the city they are placed in wounded are placed in wagons and taken advance with a view no doute entroned charge of the local police, who have City of Przemysl advance with a view, no doubt of ap- hoisted red and white bombardment flags on the churches and public buildings.

During the worst part of the battle on the Nethe many pricets and monks

don)-The Russian ambassador, while denying a report that the garrison of Przemysl, in Galicia, had surrendered to the Russians, added "however, the

FOR RED CROSS FUNDS tion is now inevitable."

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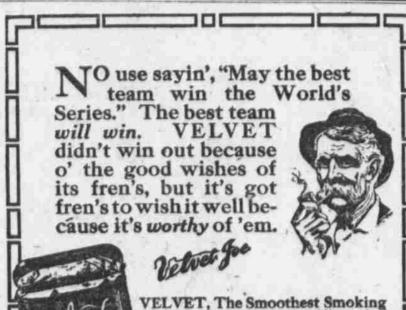
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whole town is on fire and its capitula-

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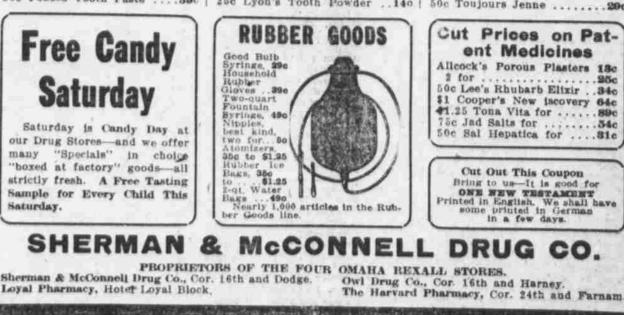
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